

December 23, 2009



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Dear Friend,

Last week Congress took up a lot of end-of-the-year legislation in a final push before we go back to our districts for the upcoming holidays. One of the most significant things that Congress needed to do before ending its session for this year was address the budget.

#### **Debt Ceiling**

As the federal deficit is on schedule to hit up against the debt ceiling established by law, Congress once again had the opportunity to recognize and address the many problems our exploding budget poses to our economic growth and stability. But instead of making the tough decisions that many Americans are learning to make in this economic climate, the House Leadership increased the debt ceiling. Rather than kicking the can down the road once again and leaving it for my grandchildren and yours to pay, I voted against raising the debt ceiling for what would be the fourth increase in a single year.

Instead of playing stall tactics with our future economic strength at risk, it is imperative for Congress to address straightforwardly the dual problem of our federal deficit: the exploding non-discretionary spending in our budget as well as our complicated, out-dated tax code. I believe that with just a little bit of courage and a lot of accountability, Congress can greatly improve these problems. No method of reaching our goals of a responsible budget and fair tax code is as promising as the SAFE Commission Act (H.R. 1557) and the Tax Code Termination Act (H.R. 982).

#### **SAFE Commission**

I've previously written about the SAFE Commission – a bi-partisan body which would develop legislation that Congress would be required to vote on to address the unsustainable imbalance between long-term federal spending commitments and projected revenues – which is still before the House Committees on the Budget and on Rules. (Read more about the Safe Commission [here](#) and [here](#).)

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## Tax Code Termination Act

Today I want to draw your attention particularly to the Tax Code Termination Act, which I have co-sponsored. This legislation would abolish the Internal Revenue Code beginning in 2013 and require Congress to approve a new federal tax system by July 4, 2012. The Tax Code Termination Act states that any new tax code should:

- apply a low rate to all Americans;
- provide tax relief for working Americans;
- protect the rights of taxpayers and reduce tax collection abuses;
- eliminate the bias against savings and investment;
- promote economic growth and job creation; and
- not penalize marriage or families.

This legislation would force Congress to face the problem of our tax code head-on and come up with an entire solution instead of making patches to a broken system. For instance, year after year Congress passes a patch for the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) which affects more and more Americans each year because it was never indexed for inflation. Instead of putting bandages on this problem, let's require Congress to remodel the system so it doesn't need fixing every year.

I look forward to communicating with you in 2010 about the progress of these and other important policy initiatives before Congress.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren  
Member of Congress

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### Do you support the SAFE Commission Act?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

### Do you support the Tax Code Termination Act?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Unsure

### Any additional comments?

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